






Improving the Health of California's Children


California's children deserve to be healthy. After all, a child's overall health makes a difference in how he or she will do in school. A child who is sick may miss class, struggle in school and even have difficulty learning. Currently, approximately 50,000 children ages 0 to 5 in California do not have health insurance, largely because their family cannot afford it or they do not qualify for public supported programs. First 5 California's Health Access for All Children Initiative makes it easier for more parents to secure needed health insurance coverage for their children.

Accomplishments to Date: Working to Keep California's Kids Healthy

-  More than 76,000 young children ages 0 to 5 are enrolled in Healthy Kids, the low-cost health insurance program offering comprehensive medical, dental and vision services. They are supported in part with First 5 California funds.
-  Healthy Kids provides coverage to eligible children regardless of immigration status.
-  Healthy Kids expands coverage to children whose family income is at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) and who are ineligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. Medi-Cal and Healthy Families only offer health coverage to children in families earning incomes up to 133 percent and 250 percent of the FPL, respectively.



Quality, affordable medical, vision and dental care are critical to children during the early years. A \$47 million investment by First 5 California provides matching funds to County Commissions to help pay for the Healthy Kids health insurance premiums for eligible young children. The County Commissions match every \$1 of state funds with \$4 of local funds in their Healthy Kids program.

-  23 counties currently participate in the Health Access for All Initiative and receive funding. They include: Alameda, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Napa, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Tulare, Yolo and Yuba. Approximately 75% of the eligible children for the Healthy Kids program reside in these counties. Many other counties are planning to implement Healthy Kids programs.

"I feel less stress knowing my daughter has insurance and I'm able to take her to the doctor in case she becomes ill."

– Elena Linares, Sacramento, CA